

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 RSC-01 DRC-01 /013 W

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R 190700Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5143

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJ: VISIT OF TAMS REPRESENTATIVE

SDOC FOR STEPHEN CONGER

REF: STATE 008504

1. SAME DAY REFTTEL RECEIVED, I WAS CALLED FROM U.S. BY
TAMS REPRESENTATIVE ASKING ME FOR LATEST INFO
AND ADVICE AS TO TIMING FOR TAMS REPRESENTATIVE VISIT.

2. I INFORMED TAMS OVER PHONE THAT I HAD GIVEN PRESIDENT
BONGO, PRIOR TO HS DEPARTURE JANUARY 1, LETTER CONCERNING
IMPORTANCE HIRING ENGINEERING CONSULTING FIRM AND MENTIONING
AVAILABILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS OF TAMS. BONGO NOW BACK
AND FONMIN RAWIRI INFORMED ME THAT MY LETTER DISCUSSED BY
BONGO WITH HIS MINISTERS DURING TRIP AND DECISION TAKEN
TO PROCEED AS I SUGGESTED. GOG, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THERE
SHOULD BE CONSORTIUM OF THREE FIRMS OF WHICH ONE SHOULD
BE AMERICAN (GOG AGREEABLE TO TAMS), ONE FRENCH AND ONE
EITHER ITALIAN OR GERMAN. FONMIN SAID GOG WOULD LIKE TO
HAVE TAMS TAKE INITIATIVE IN CONTACTING FRENCH FIRM
(E.G., SOFRERAIL) AND A THIRD PARTNER WHO SHOULD BE
ITALIAN OR GERMAN. MINISTER SAID THAT IF TAMS CAME TO
LIBREVILLE WITH SUCH A PACKAGE GOG IN PRINCIPLE AGREEABLE
TO ACCEPT IT. I SUGGESTED THAT TAMS TRY TO
COME HERE BEFORE END OF MONTH INASMUCH AS PRESIDENT

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BONGO PLANNING TO LEAVE FOR TEN DAYS IN FRANCE EARLY IN FEBRUARY.

3. TAMS REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION AT PROGRESS MADE BUT COMMENTED THAT COMPANY HAD SLIGHT PROBLEM TO RESOLVE INASMUCH AS THEY CURRENTLY HAD TWO PROSPECTIVE FRENCH PARTNERS ONLY. THEY INDICATED TO ME, HOWEVER THAT THEY WOULD ENDEAVOR TO COMPLY WITH GOG DESIRE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE AND TRY TO SEND SOMEONE TO LIBREVILLE BEFORE END OF MONTH.

4. COMMENT: BELIEVE MATTER MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION AND HOPE TAMS CAN FOLLOW THROUGH RAPIDLY BEFORE OTHERS SEEK TO CHANGE PRESIDENT'S MIND.
MCKESSON

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